

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 HA-05 /096 W
-----081905 151952Z /15

P R 151918Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9429
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11063

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB
SUBJECT: HUEBNER CASE: REPLY TO BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN
LORENZ

REFS: (A) STATE 146105
(B) BONN 10344
(C) BONN 8043 AND PREVIOUS

BEGIN SUMMARY: PARIS HAS PROPOSED ONE CHANGE IN TEXT
OF THE ALLIED REPLY AND HAS EXPRESSED THE PREFERENCE
THAT THE REPLIES BE SIGNED IN CAPITALS. ACTION
REQUESTED: SEE PARA 7. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE JUNE 13 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG, UK AND
US REPS REPORTED APPROVAL FOR THE TEXT AND LEVEL OF THE
ALLIED REPLY AS AGREED AD REF AT THE MAY 30 MEETING
(REF B).

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2. THE FRENCH REP (GAUSSOT) SAID THAT PARIS CONTINUED
TO FEEL THAT THE SENTENCE REFERRING TO SOVIET OBSTRUC-
TIONISM OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS (PARA 2, SENTENCE 2 OF
THE REPLY) COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.
HE RECALLED THAT PARIS HAD ACCEPTED IT ONLY GRUDGINGLY
FOR THE ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT OF MAY 2 (REF C). PARIS
PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE BE USED INSTEAD

IN THE REPLY TO LORENZ: "AS YOU KNOW, HOWEVER, THE ALLIES FACE OBSTRUCTIONISM FROM THE SOVIET SIDE AND, DESPITE ITS EFFORTS, THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA HAS BEEN ABLE FOR MANY YEARS TO IMPLEMENT ITS DECISIONS ONLY IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN." HE SAID THAT THE FINAL SENTENCE IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH ("THIS...DEAL.") WAS ACCEPTABLE TO PARIS.

3. GAUSSOT SAID PARIS ALSO FELT IT INAPPROPRIATE THAT LETTERS OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT BE ANSWERED BY THE MINISTERS IN BERLIN. PARIS BELIEVED ITS REPLY TO LORENZ SHOULD BE MADE BY A "CONSEILLER DE TECHNIQUE," A STAFF POSITION IN THE CABINET IN PARIS.

4. THE BRITISH REP (EYERS) SAID HE BELIEVED THIS REPRESENTED A DIFFERENCE IN PRACTICE BETWEEN THE FRENCH, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE AMERICANS AND THE BRITISH ON THE OTHER. BOTH UK AND US DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ROUTINELY ANSWERED MAIL ON BEHALF OF THEIR PRIME MINISTER OR PRESIDENT. HE NEVERTHELESS SAW NO DIFFICULTY WITH THE US AND UK REPLYING THROUGH THE MINISTERS IN BERLIN, WHILE PARIS REPLIED THROUGH A "CONSEILLER DE TECHNIQUE." SINCE THE TWO POSITIONS WERE NOT COMPARABLE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO READ ANY MEANING INTO THE DIFFERENCE.

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5. ON PARIS' PROPOSED REVISION OF THE SECOND SENTENCE, THE US REP SAID THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IT AND THE ORIGINAL VERSION. NOTING THAT THE BONN GROUP HAD AGREED TO COORDINATE ON THE SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN THE PRECISE WORDING OF A REPLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT PARIS USE THE REVISION IN ITS TEXT, WHILE THE US AND UK COULD REMAIN WITH THE ORIGINAL VERSION.

6. GAUSSOT SAID HE TOOK THE POINT MADE BY THE US REP, BUT HE ASKED THAT THE BONN GROUP NEVERTHELESS AGREE TO RECOMMEND PARIS' PROPOSED REVISION. HE SAID THIS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO TRY TO PERSUADE PARIS TO AUTHORIZE THE FRENCH MINISTER IN BERLIN TO MAKE THE REPLY. THE OTHER BONN GROUP REPS AGREED TO GAUSSOT'S REQUEST.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR THE TEXTUAL REVISION PROPOSED BY PARIS (PARA 2 ABOVE) AND AUTHORITY TO AGREE, IF NECESSARY, THAT PARIS' REPLY MAY BE SIGNED BY A "CONSEILLER DETECHNIQUE," WITH THE UK AND US REPLIES BEING MADE BY THE MINISTERS

IN BERLIN.MEEHAN

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